

REMARKS


This amendment responds to the office action mailed June 16, 2003. Claims 1-37 were pending in the instant Application. In the office action the PTO allowed claims 31-37, objected to claims 15-16, and 23-26 for being dependent upon a rejected claim base and rejected claims 1-14, 17-22 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wittwer *et al.*, in view of Brown *et al.*

With the instant amendment, claims 1-6, 18-22 and 27-30 have been canceled, without prejudice. Applicants have amended claims 7, 8, 15, 23, 25 and 26, and added new claims 38 and 39. After entry of this amendment, claims 7-17, 23-26, and 31-39 will be pending.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in one or more related, continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application(s).

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to independent form incorporating the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Claims 15, 23 and 25 have been amended to independent form incorporating the limitations of their base and intervening claims, as recommended by the PTO. Claim 26 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Support for amended claim 7 can be found in claims 1, 2 and 7 as originally filed. Support for amended claim 8 can be found in claims 1, 2 and 8 as originally filed. Support for amended claim 15 can be found in claims 1, 2, 6 and 15 as originally filed. Support for amended claim 23 can be found in claims 18, 19 and 23 as originally filed. Support for amended claim 25 can be found in claims 18, 20 and 25 as originally filed. Support for new claim 38 can be found in claims 1, 3 and 7 as originally filed. Support for amended claim 39 can be found in claims 1, 3 and 8 as originally filed. As the amendments to claims 7, 8, 15, 23, 25 and 26, and new claims 38 and 39 are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed, they do not constitute new matter. As the amendments to claims 7, 8, 15, 23, 25 and 26, and new claims 38 and 39 do not constitute new matter and are believed to place the claims in condition for allowance, thereby reducing the number of issues for appeal, entry thereof is respectfully requested. Further, Applicants submit that the total number of claims pending after entry of instant amendment is fewer than that pending before the issuance of the instant Office Action.

As the amendment has not been entered, the request for reconsideration has not been entered and therefore not addressed.


JEFFREY FREDMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER